

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments to the claims and Abstract before examination of the application is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully submit that due to amendments to the claims in the corresponding PCT application, for which the present application is a National Stage application, claims 1-2 are currently pending in the PCT application. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that numbering of the new claims in the present application beginning with claim number 3 is proper.


If there are any questions regarding this Preliminary Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket 011235.57691US).

Respectfully submitted,

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METHOD FOR STRUCTURING THE AERODYNAMICS OF COMPONENTS IN AIRCRAFT GAS TURBINES

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0001] This application claims the priority of International Application No. PCT/DE2004/002507, filed November 12, 2004, and German Patent Document No. 103 57 629.0, filed December 10, 2003, the disclosures of which are expressly incorporated by reference herein.

[0002] The present invention relates to a method for structuring the aerodynamics of components in aircraft gas turbines ~~according to the preamble of Patent Claim 1.~~

[0003] A method for manufacturing an impeller with blades arranged on the outside circumference of a wheel disk in the BLISK design is known from European Patent 0 327 657 A1. In this method the blades are roughly premachined. Molded cathodes then engage in the gaps between the blades and the blades are machined to the finished contour by electrochemical machining methods, e.g., ECM (electrochemical machining).

[0004] The efficiency of compressors or compressor rotors in axial machines in particular, such as those known from aircraft gas turbines, depends to a significant extent on the aerodynamic design of the blades and the rims of the guide blading of the impeller. To improve the aerodynamics of aircraft bearing surfaces, it is known that the flow resistance of the bearing surfaces can be reduced by means of boundary layer suction.

[0005] Furthermore, there are known structural measures involving the surface of the bearing surfaces by means of which thickening or burbling of the boundary layer can be prevented.

[0006] The object of the present invention is thus to improve upon the aerodynamics of components in aircraft gas turbines.

~~[0007] This object is achieved with the method according to the features of Patent Claim 1. Advantageous embodiments of the inventive method are the subject matter of the subclaims.~~

[0008] According to the invention, a structure that minimizes boundary layers on the surface of the components is produced by means of structures that are present on the surface of the molded cathodes.

[0009] With the inventive structurally modified molded cathode, it is thus possible to produce a suitable structure on the surface of the components such that the structure has boundary-layer-minimizing properties during operation. The component is advantageously an impeller having blades arranged on the outside circumference according to the BLISK technology.

[0010] One advantage of this method is that the component manufacturing process can be accelerated by means of the molded cathode according to the present invention. The structurally modified molded cathode makes it possible to manufacture the components in one manufacturing operation. With the inventive molded cathode it is thus possible to contour the components suitably and at the same time provide them with a suitable surface structuring. The contour of the components and the surface structuring should be selected so that the components have a high efficiency during operation.

[0011] Thus with the inventive method the step of surface structuring, which is necessary in the state of the art to provide the completely contoured components with a surface structure, is omitted. The finished contour and the finished structure of the components can thus be produced in a single manufacturing step by the method according to this invention.

[0012] In an advantageous embodiment of this invention, the structure of the surface of the molded cathodes is designed so that a negative structure

in relation to the molded cathode surface is formed on the surface of the blades.

[0013] In another advantageous embodiment of this invention the electrochemical machining process is a pulsed processed.